

Application No. 10/750,418
Amendment dated August 17, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2005

Remarks / Arguments

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Office Action of May 19, 2005. This request for reconsideration is in full reply thereto.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, 11-12, 14-15, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,221,163 B1 (Roberson). Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection because Roberson fails to disclose, teach or suggest: a) means to receive a supply of compressed air communicating with a desiccator or a nitrogen generator or both and means to direct a dry gas stream from the desiccator or nitrogen generator or both to the interior of a cabinet; or b) directing a supply of compressed air to a dry gas forming means to a dry gas forming means in the form of a desiccator or nitrogen generator.

Roberson discloses a supply of working gas directed to a heater and desiccant before entry into a standard mechanical interface box (SMIF). The working gas is nitrogen gas, argon gas, or other similar inert gas or combination of gases. The phrase, "compressed air" does not appear in the patent. To the extent that Roberson addresses generation of nitrogen, it discloses the use of house nitrogen and the use of a gas source that has been certified by a vendor. Thus, it would be evident to one of ordinary skill in the art that Roberson fails to disclose, teach or suggest: a) means to receive a supply of compressed air communicating with a desiccator or a nitrogen generator or both and means to direct a dry gas stream from the desiccator or nitrogen generator or both to the interior of a cabinet; or b) directing a supply of compressed air to a dry gas forming means to a dry gas forming means in the form of a desiccator or nitrogen generator.

For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 6-8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Roberson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,615,908

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(Bosher). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because Bosher and Roberson are not analogous art, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not find it obvious to combine the teachings of Roberson and Bosher in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Roberson discloses molecular contamination control of a standard mechanical interface box (SMIF), including maintenance of the relative humidity of the atmosphere to low levels, such as 0.1%. On the other hand, Bosher teaches, in part, controlling the humidity levels inside a sealable transportable container containing perishable produce.

It is well established that a reference does not qualify as prior art in an obviousness rejection if it is not analogous to the claimed invention. It is clear that that Bosher, directed to transporting fresh produce, is not in the same field of endeavor as that of the invention. It is also clear that Bigio is not reasonably pertinent to the problem with which the inventor was concerned. Bigio is concerned with maintaining a relative humidity **above** a certain level in order to maintain the quality of fresh produce. On the other hand, the inventor of the present invention was concerned with the problem of maintaining the humidity inside a cabinet for storing surface mount devices **below** a certain level.

It is also well established that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the teachings of two references if the teachings of each of the references (considered as a whole) teach away from one another. It is clear that Roberson is concerned with, and teaches a solution to, molecular contamination control of a standard mechanical interface box (SMIF), including maintenance of the relative humidity of the atmosphere to **low** levels, such as 0.1%. It is clear that Bigio is concerned with, and teaches a solution to, maintaining a relative humidity in an atmosphere surrounding fresh produce **above** a certain level. One of ordinary skill in the art would likely recognize that lowering the relative humidity level of fresh produce atmospheres to **low levels**

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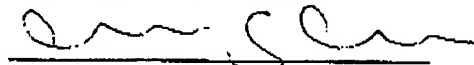
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such as 0.1% would deleteriously impact the quality of the fresh produce. In other words, it would dry out, among other things.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, she is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to phone number 571-273-8300 on this 17th day of August 2005.



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